

REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. The Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 5 and 21 are allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Disposition of Claims

Claims 1-31 are pending in the present patent application. Claims 1, 10, 18, and 23 are independent. The remaining claims depend, either directly or indirectly, on claims 1, 10, 18, and 23.

Claim Amendments

Independent claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of dependent claim 5, and thus is equivalent to claim 5 rewritten in independent form. Independent claim 18 has been amended to include the limitations of dependent claim 21, and thus is equivalent to claim 21 rewritten in independent form. Claims 10 and 23 were also amended to include the substantially the same limitations added to claims 1 and 18, respectively.

Dependent claims 4 and 20 have been amended to correct formalities resulting from the amendments made to independent claims 1 and 18, respectively. Dependent claims 5 and 21 have been cancelled.

Claim Rejections

Claims 1, 7, 10, 11, 23 and 26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,107,942 issued to Yoo et al. ("Yoo"). Claims 1, 6, 10, 12-16,

18, 22-26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0099574 applied for by Cahill et al. ("Cahill"), in view of Yoo. Claims 2 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Cahill in view of Yoo and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,147,624 issued to Clapper ("Clapper"). Claim 3 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Cahill in view of Yoo and further in view of US Patent No. 5,980,185 issued to Vita ("Vita"). Claims 4, 8, 9, 17, 20, 27-31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Cahill in view of Yoo and further in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0161520 applied for by Dutta et al. ("Dutta").

Independent claims 1, 10, 18, and 23 have been amended to include allowable subject matter from dependent claims 5 and 21, which are now cancelled. Therefore, amended independent claims 1, 10, 18, and 23 are patentable over the cited prior art. The remaining dependent claims, which depend directly or indirectly from independent claims 1, 10, 18, and 23, are allowable over the cited prior art for at least the same reasons. Withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

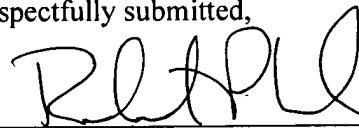
Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 03226/452002; P6353CNT).

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Respectfully submitted,

By



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